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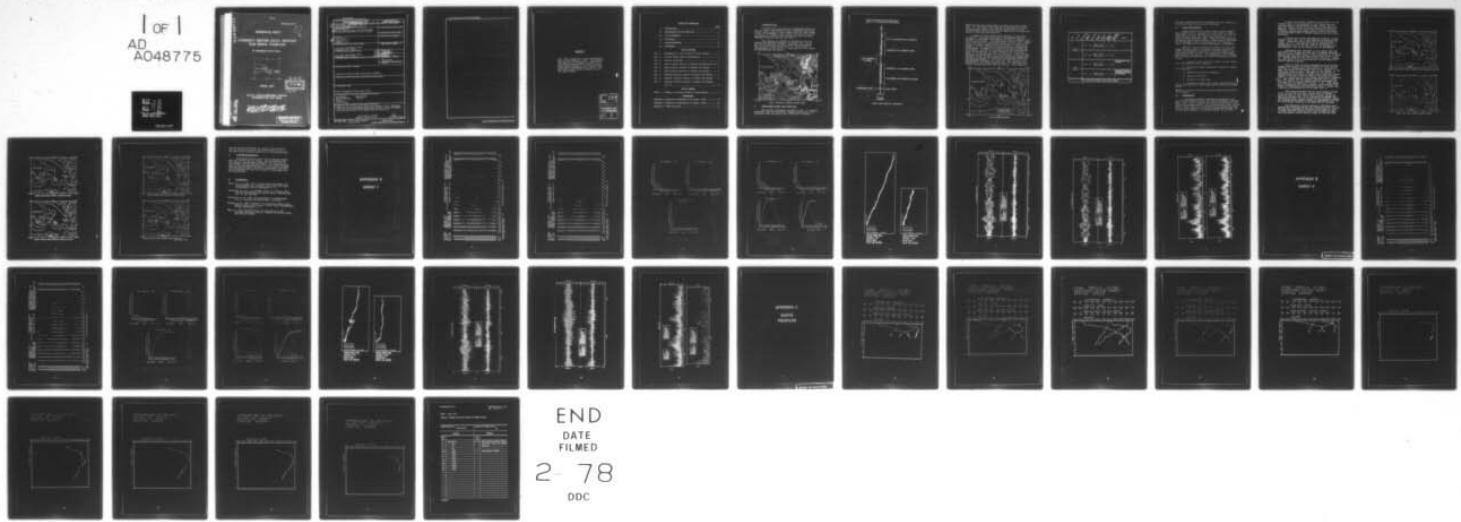
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CURRENT METER DATA REPORT FOR MONA PASSAGE. (U)
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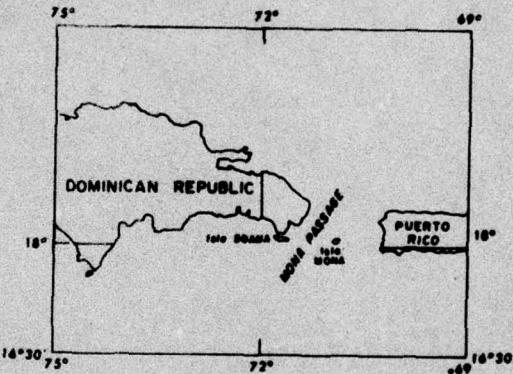
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TECHNICAL NOTE

CURRENT METER DATA REPORT
FOR MONA PASSAGE

M. Bourkland and S. Dorey



APRIL 1977

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REF ID: A
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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes current measurements made in Mona Passage in 1975. The figures included show the bathymetry, location of the current observations, location of the SVSTD stations taken at the time of array implantment (NAVOCEANO cruise 343517), and mean and maximum velocity vectors at the two sample levels.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In March 1975, the Physical Oceanography Branch of the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office implanted taut-lined current meter arrays in Mona Passage from the USNS WILKES (T-AGS 33) (NAVOCEANO cruise 343517) to measure near bottom currents. Recovery was accomplished from the USNS HARKNESS (T-AGS 32) during July 1975.

Mona Passage is located in the Greater Antilles between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and is part of the Antilles Arc which separates the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean (Fig. 1). The Passage is approximately 114 km (62.5 mi.) wide and has a sill depth of approximately 450 meters.

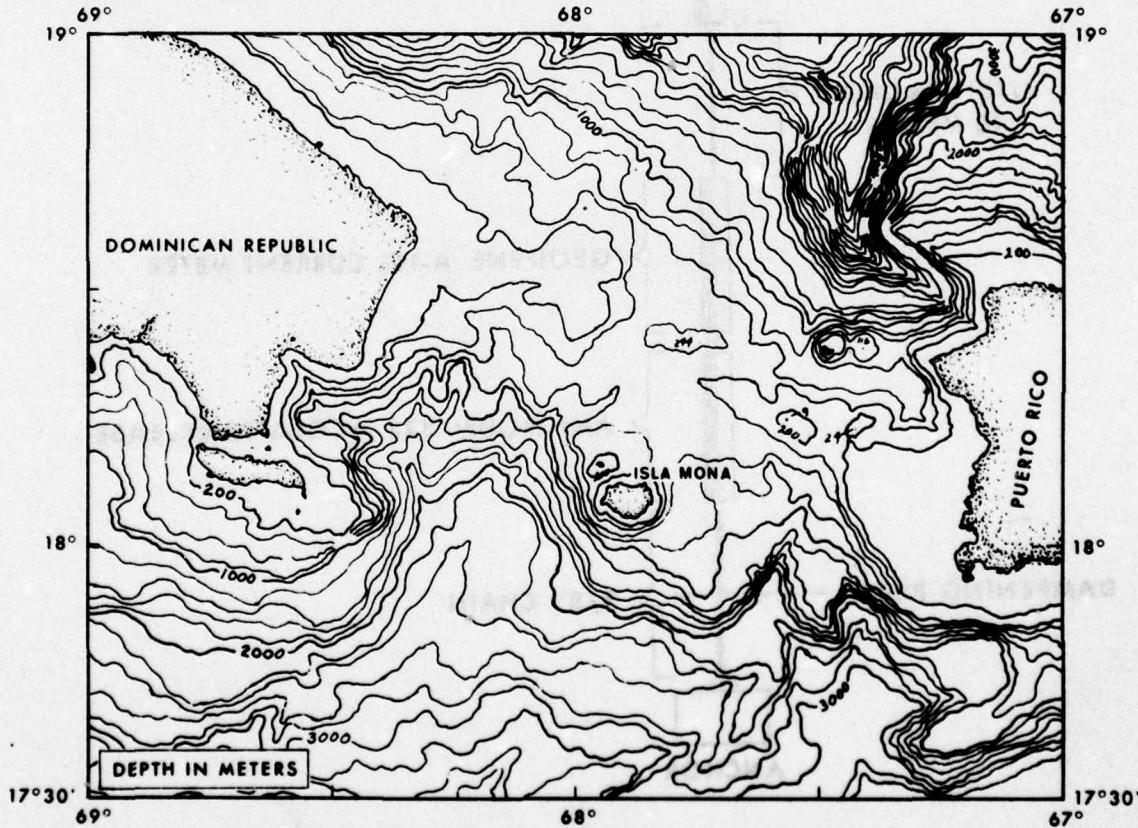


FIGURE 1. BATHYMETRY IN THE VICINITY OF MONA PASSAGE

II. INSTRUMENTATION AND SAMPLING

Five arrays (configured as shown in Fig. 2) utilizing Richardson type current meters (Geodyne model A-101) were implanted using the anchor last "free fall" technique.

RADIO TRANSMITTER FLASHING LIGHT
WITH 3 10" GLASS BALLS IN HARDHATS

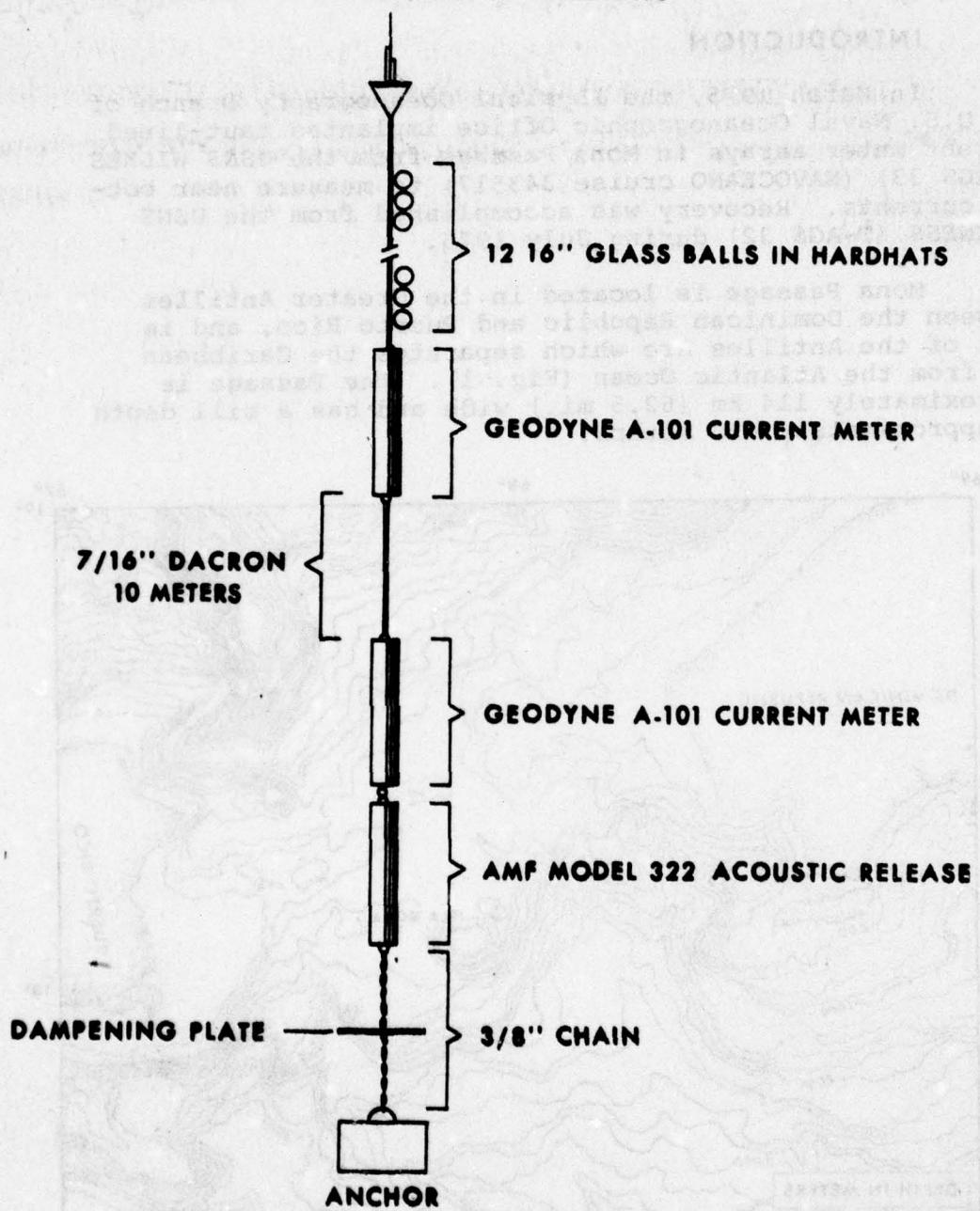


FIGURE 2. CURRENT METER ARRAY CONFIGURATION

SVSTD stations were taken near the array site after launch (Fig. 3). The arrays were deployed by streaming the glass balls, current meter, line, and the release device from the ship before cutting the anchor clump loose, allowing the array to free fall into position.

A summary of the current meter implants is presented in Table 1. The meters on array 1 ran properly from implantation to recovery. Both meters on array 4, however, had partial malfunctions. The speed sensor of meter N-413 stopped after 1098 hours of observation and the film in meter N-429 failed to advance properly after 2318 hours of observation. Arrays 2, 3, and 5 failed to surface when the releases were interrogated. Attempts to recover the arrays by grappling also failed. Failure of the releases may have been attributable to flooding due to excess corrosion on the bottom plate of the release near the 'O' ring seals. Both releases recovered showed excessive corrosion around the purging plug. Corrosion on one of the releases had progressed through the purging plug primary 'O' ring seal and was about 1/8" from the secondary or backup 'O' ring seal. The corrosion was determined to have been caused by a lack of electrical continuity between the anode and the end cap. This condition

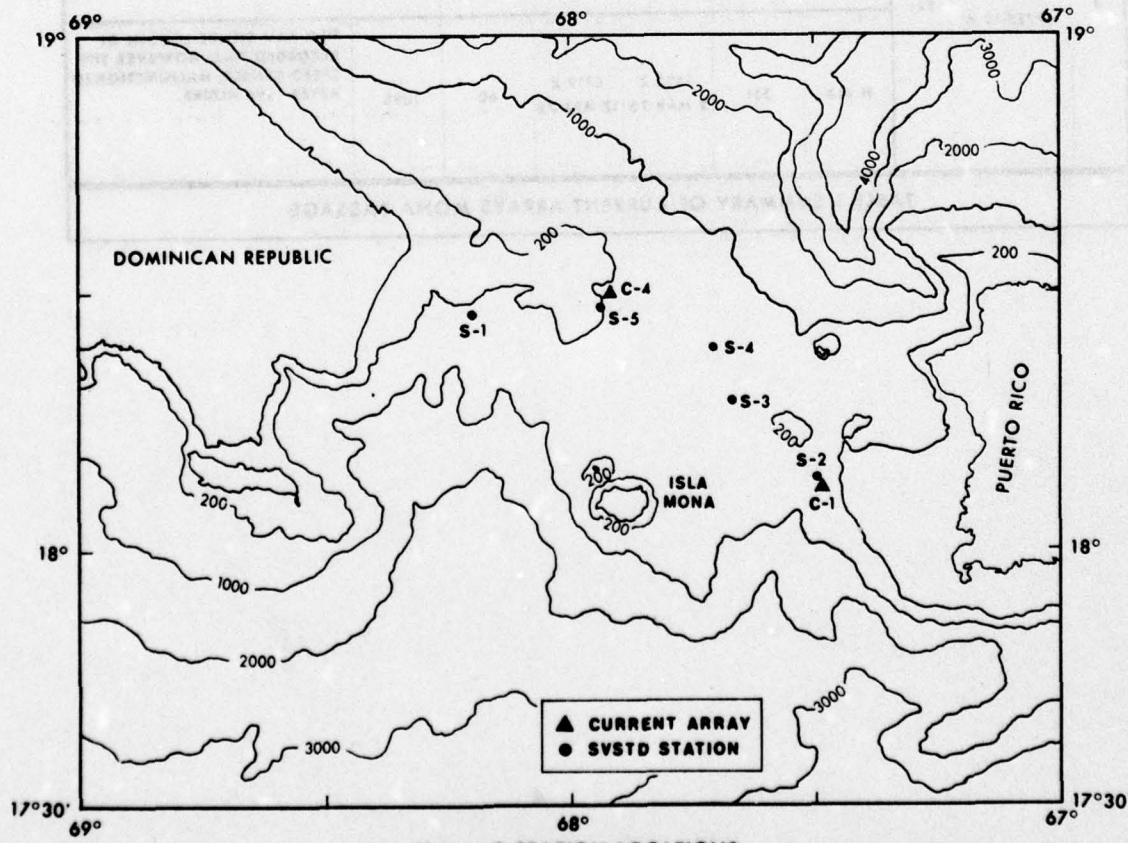


Figure 3 STATION LOCATIONS

ARRAY	POSITION	WATER DEPTH (m)	CURRENT METER S/N	METER DEPTH (m)	METER DATA STARTS	METER DATA ENDS	SAMPLING INTERVAL (MINUTES)	TOTAL USABLE RECORD (HOURS)	REMARKS
1	18°07.08'N 67°29.07'W	405	N 434	305	2025 Z 2 MAR 75	1640 Z 14 JUL 75	60	3212	
			N 128	395	2025 Z 2 MAR 75	1640 Z 14 JUL 75	60	3212	ONBOARD OF POLARIS SEASIDE AND 30-40 KNOTS BLOWING NO NOTATION
4	18°30.3'N 67°55.10'W	341	N 429	321	1905 Z 2 MAR 75	0819 Z 7 JUN 75	60	2318	METER MALFUNCTION AFTER 2318 HOURS
			N 413	331	1405 Z 2 MAR 75	0719 Z 17 APR 75	60	1098	FILM RAN ENTIRE LENGTH OF RECORDED TIME; HOWEVER THE SPEED SENSOR MALFUNCTIONED AFTER 1098 HOURS.

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF CURRENT ARRAYS MONA PASSAGE

has been rectified and all instruments are now checked for continuity before the arrays are launched.

III. DATA PROCESSING

Geodyne model A-101 current meters record compass, vane, speed and tilt information on 100' rolls of 16mm photographic film as described by Richardson, et al (1963). Films recovered from the meters were developed at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). They were then processed through an Optical Data Converter (OPDAC) which translates the photographic code to binary data on 1/2" magnetic tape. The OPDAC is an in-house development of NAVOCEANO.

Magnetic tapes created by the OPDAC were then processed through a series of FORTRAN language routines on a UNIVAC 1108 computer to produce a final data tape of current observations from which all statistical and graphic presentations are derived. The appendices A and B contain the following presentations of the data collected on these arrays:

- a. Bivariate distribution of speed (4 cm/sec interval) and direction (10° intervals).
- b. Cumulative speed distribution (cm/sec vs cumulative frequency).
- c. Speed and direction histograms.
- d. Speed vs time plot.
- e. V_e and V_n vs time plot.
- f. Progressive vector plot (shows relative motion during time span as a single particle of water thru a fixed point).

Appendix C contains SVSTD profiles and temperature-salinity (T-S) graphs.

IV. DISCUSSION

A literature search on subsurface currents in the area of Mona Passage reveals that few measurements have been made. Wüst (1964) discusses the general circulation in the Antillean-Caribbean Basins, but not specifically Mona Passage. Wüst's report does show a tendency for the surface currents to flow in a northerly direction through Mona Passage, and that a slight change in circulation occurs in the Fall.

Surface flow charts created for an Atlantic Surface Current Atlas, to be published by this Office show the northern edge of the Caribbean current flowing westerly past the southern shore of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Some of this water mass bifurcates and flows northward through Mona Passage where it may be entrained by the Antilles Current, thereby resuming its flow to the northwest.

A series of current measurements conducted in Mona Passage in the fall of 1972 are reported by Burns and Car (1975). These data show a mean flow of approximately 14 cm/sec (Fig. 4). The maximum observed currents show a northeasterly flow on the east side of the passage and a southwesterly flow on the western side of the passage.

Subsurface data contained in this report show the northward flow through the east side of passage continues down to the sill depth where it has a mean flow of 10 cm/sec between Mona Isle and the Puerto Rican coast (Figs. 5 and 6). Between Mona Isle and the Dominican Republic, however, the mean bottom flow is southward into the Caribbean at a rate of nearly 20 cm/sec.

Both our data and those presented by Burns and Car suggest there exists a horizontal shear zone that extends northward or northeastward from Mona Isle. According to Wüst, the inflow on the western side of the passage is the subtropical undercurrent. The core of this current is characterized by a salinity maximum near 36.9‰ which occurs between 80 and 200 meters as shown by the SVSTD stations taken in conjunction with the current meter arrays (Appendix C). Near bottom maximum currents observed show a strong flow (40 cm/sec) for the eastern side of the passage and 80 cm/sec for the western side (Figs. 7 & 8). This agrees with the Burns and Car data, although their maximum flow shows a northeasterly-southwesterly direction rather than northerly and southerly as in our data (Fig. 9).

Wüst reports maximum flow of the Caribbean Current to be in June and July and a minimum flow in October. Since the data in this report were collected during the period of maximum flow, it can therefore be assumed that the maximum bottom currents would not significantly exceed the observed 80-85 cm/sec currents on the western side and 40 to 50 cm/sec currents on the east side of the pass.

The definition of the location of the shear zone between the inflowing subtropical undercurrent and the outflow and the magnitude of the shear would require a grid of SVSTD stations extending north and northeast of Mona Isle and several current meters arrays in the grid area

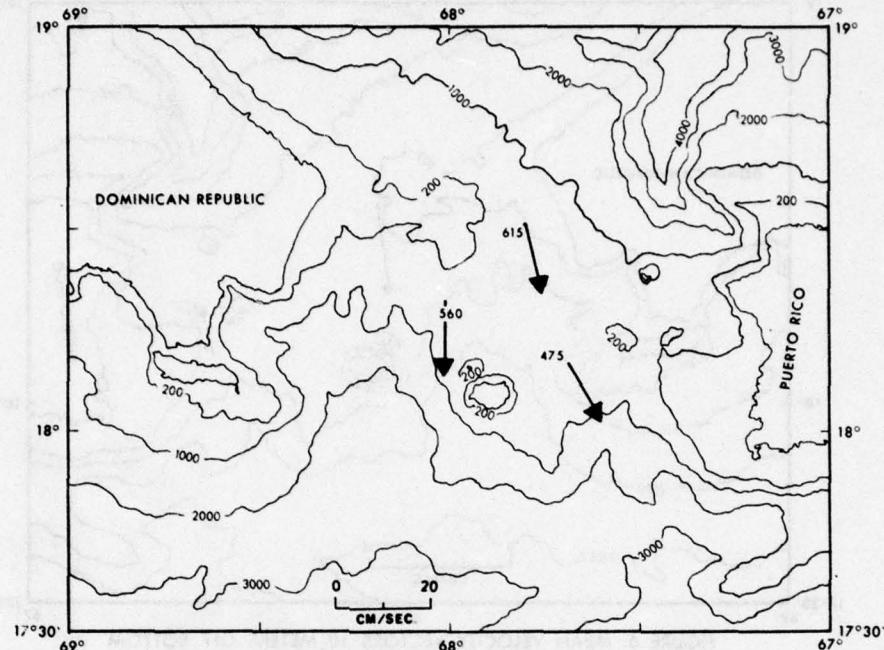


FIGURE 4. MEAN VELOCITY VECTORS 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM (BURNS AND CAR 1972)

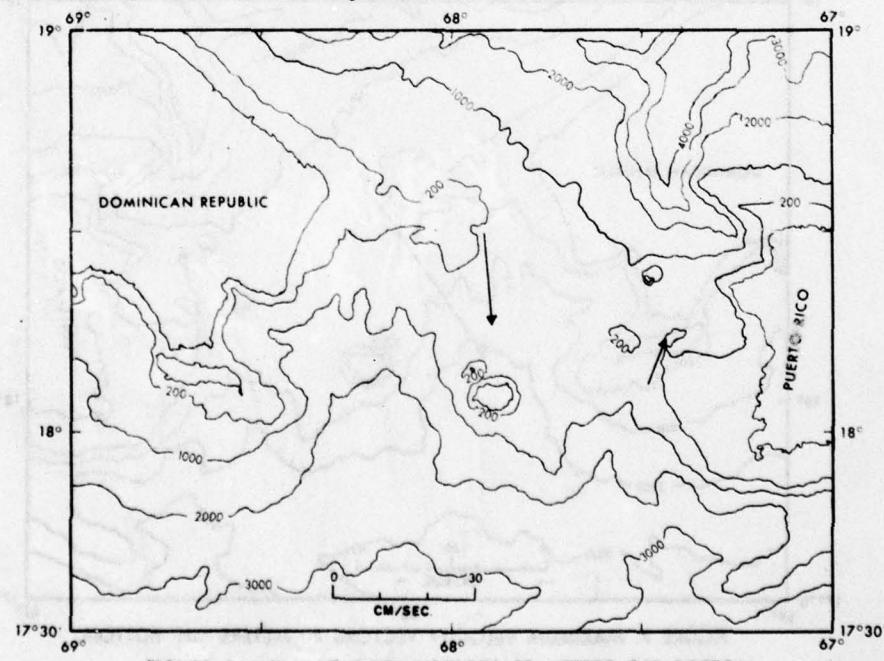


FIGURE 5. MEAN VELOCITY VECTORS 20 METERS OFF BOTTOM

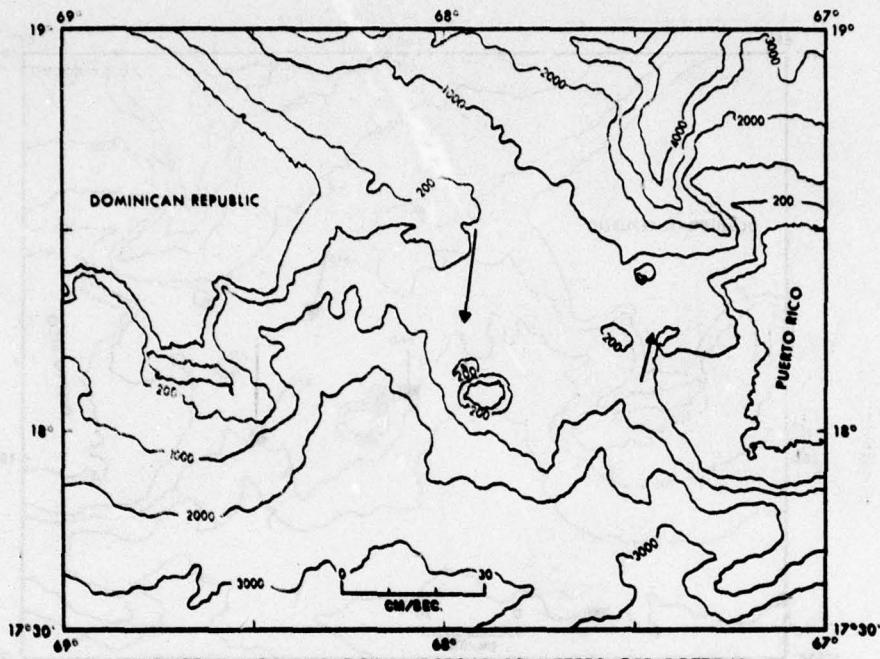


FIGURE 6. MEAN VELOCITY VECTORS 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM

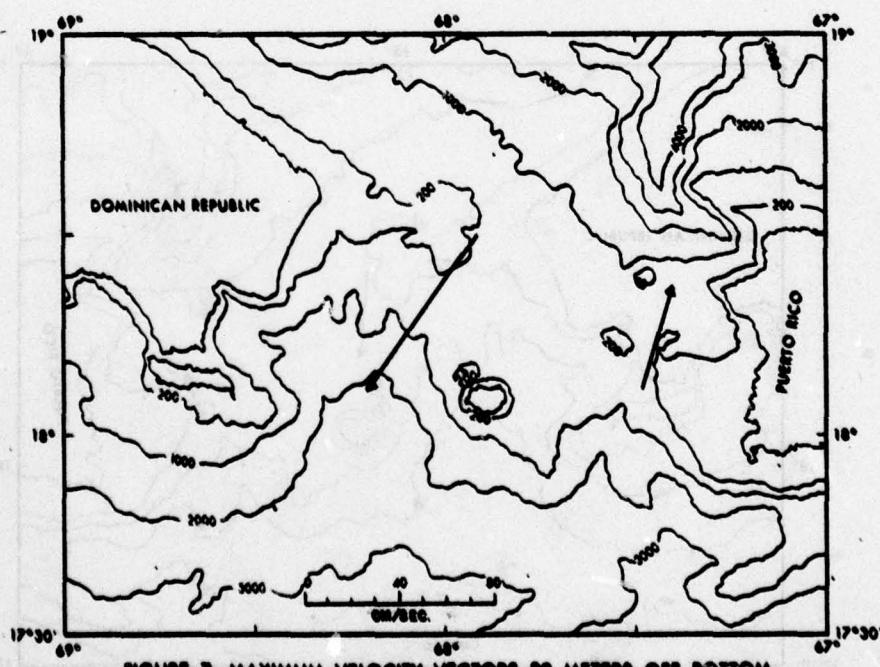


FIGURE 7. MAXIMUM VELOCITY VECTORS 20 METERS OFF BOTTOM

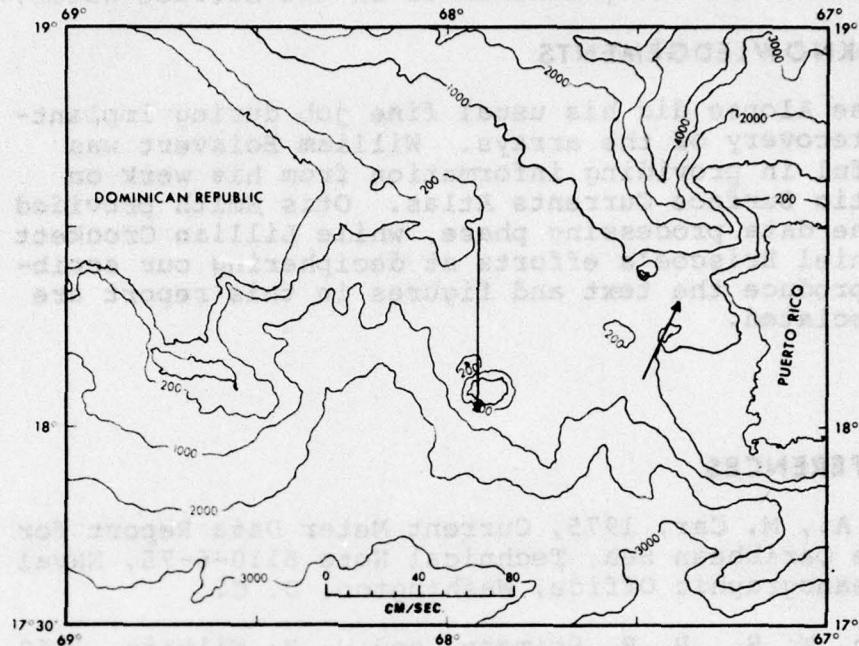


FIGURE 8. MAXIMUM VELOCITY VECTOR 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM

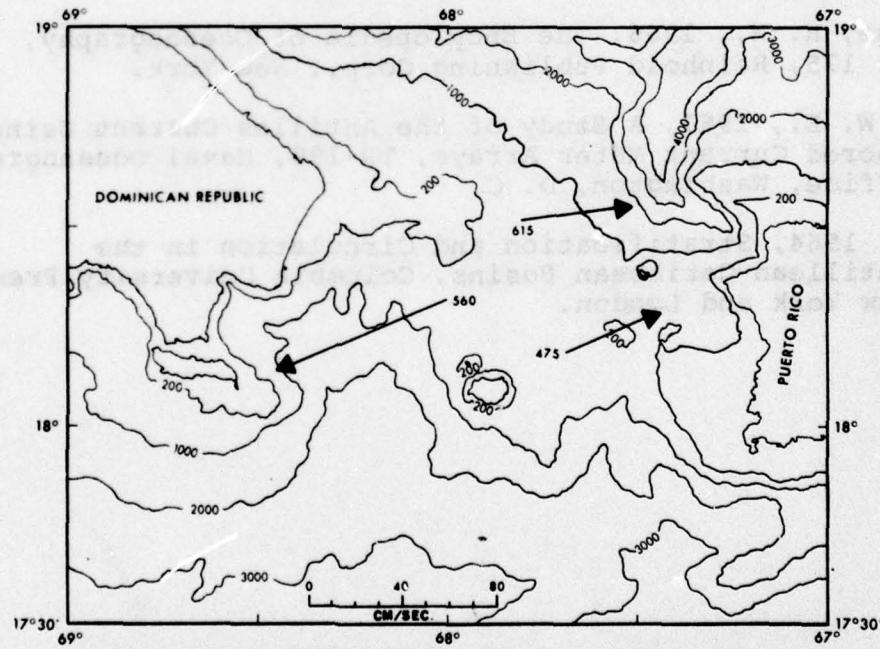


FIGURE 9. MAXIMUM VELOCITY VECTORS 10 METERS OFF BOTTOM
(BURNS AND CAR 1972)

with meters spaced between the surface and the bottom. Maximum velocities through the passage should occur in the area of the salinity maximum or in the surface water.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jose Alonso did his usual fine job during implantment and recovery of the arrays. William Boisvert was most helpful in providing information from his work on the Atlantic Surface Currents Atlas. Otis Smith provided help in the data processing phase, while Lillian Crockett and Nathaniel Briscoe's efforts at deciphering our scribbling to produce the text and figures in this report are most appreciated.

VI. REFERENCES

Burns, D. A., M. Car, 1975, Current Meter Data Report for the Caribbean Sea, Technical Note 6110-6-75, Naval Oceanographic Office, Washington, D. C.

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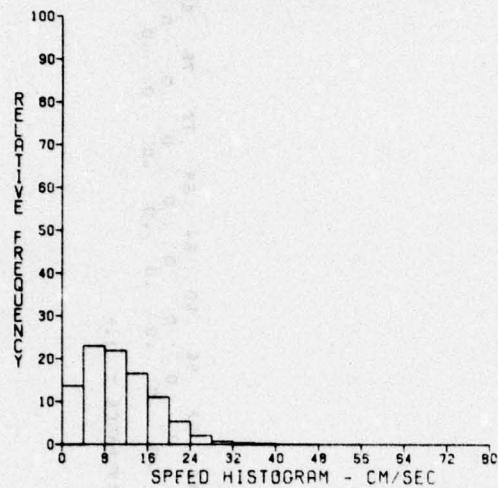
APPENDIX A

ARRAY 1

PERCENTAGE ZERO SPEED AVERAGE = 5.3
PERCENTAGE ZERO SPEED AVERAGE = 16.9

PERCENTAGE 220 SPECIES AVERAGE = 1.07
NUMBER OF SPECIES AVERAGE = 53
NUMBER OF SPECIES = 330 0.832 0.627 0.550 0.430 0.300 0.200 0.100 0.050 0.020 0.010 0.005 0.001

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3211

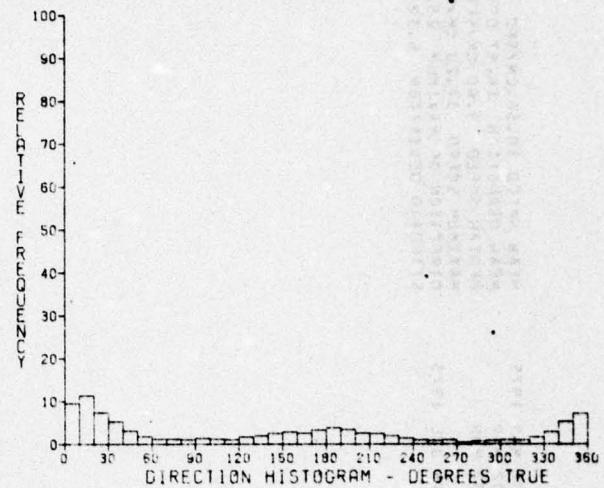


MONA PASSAGE

ARRAY 1

DEPTH 385 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3042

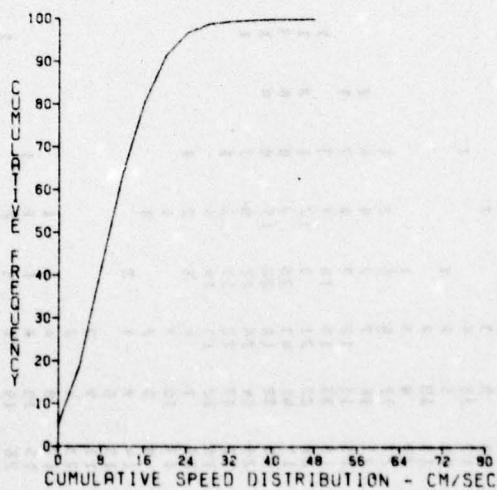


MONA PASSAGE

ARRAY 1

DEPTH 385 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3211

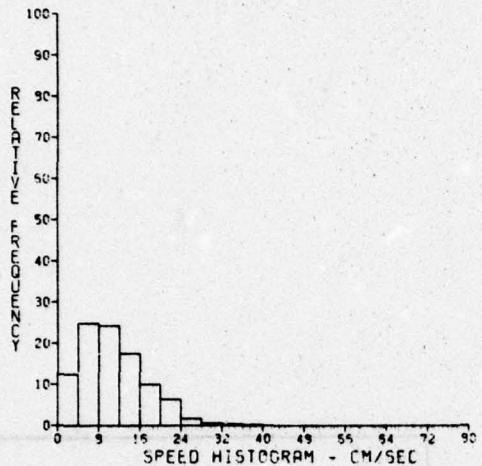


MONA PASSAGE

ARRAY 1

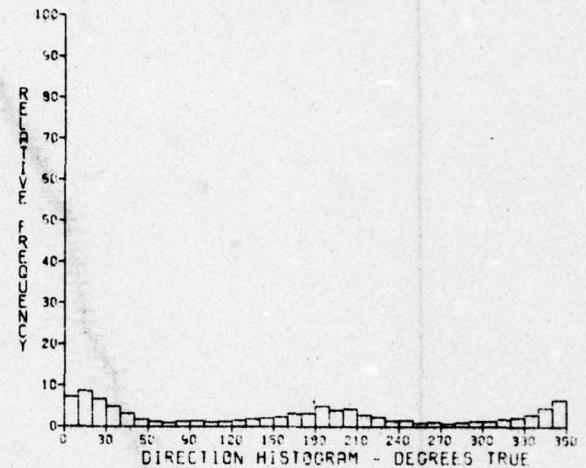
DEPTH 385 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3211



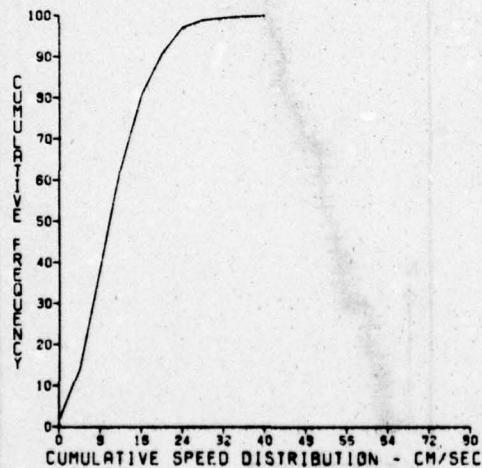
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1 DEPTH 395 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3158

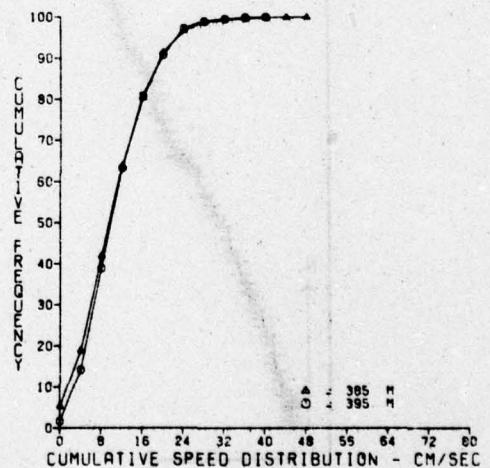


MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1 DEPTH 395 M

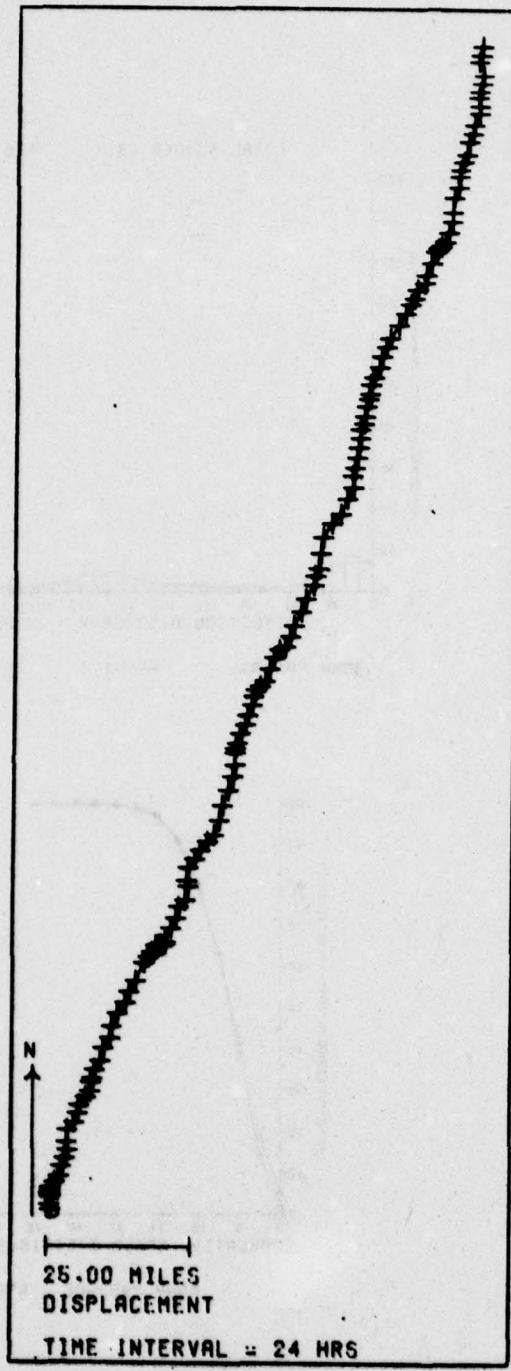
TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 3211



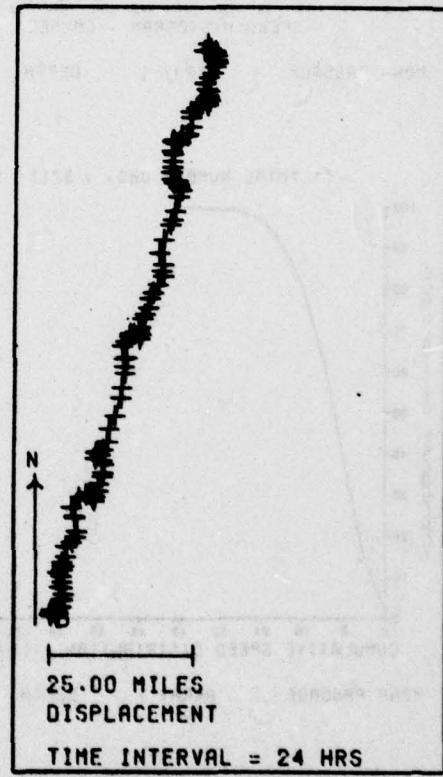
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1 DEPTH 395 M



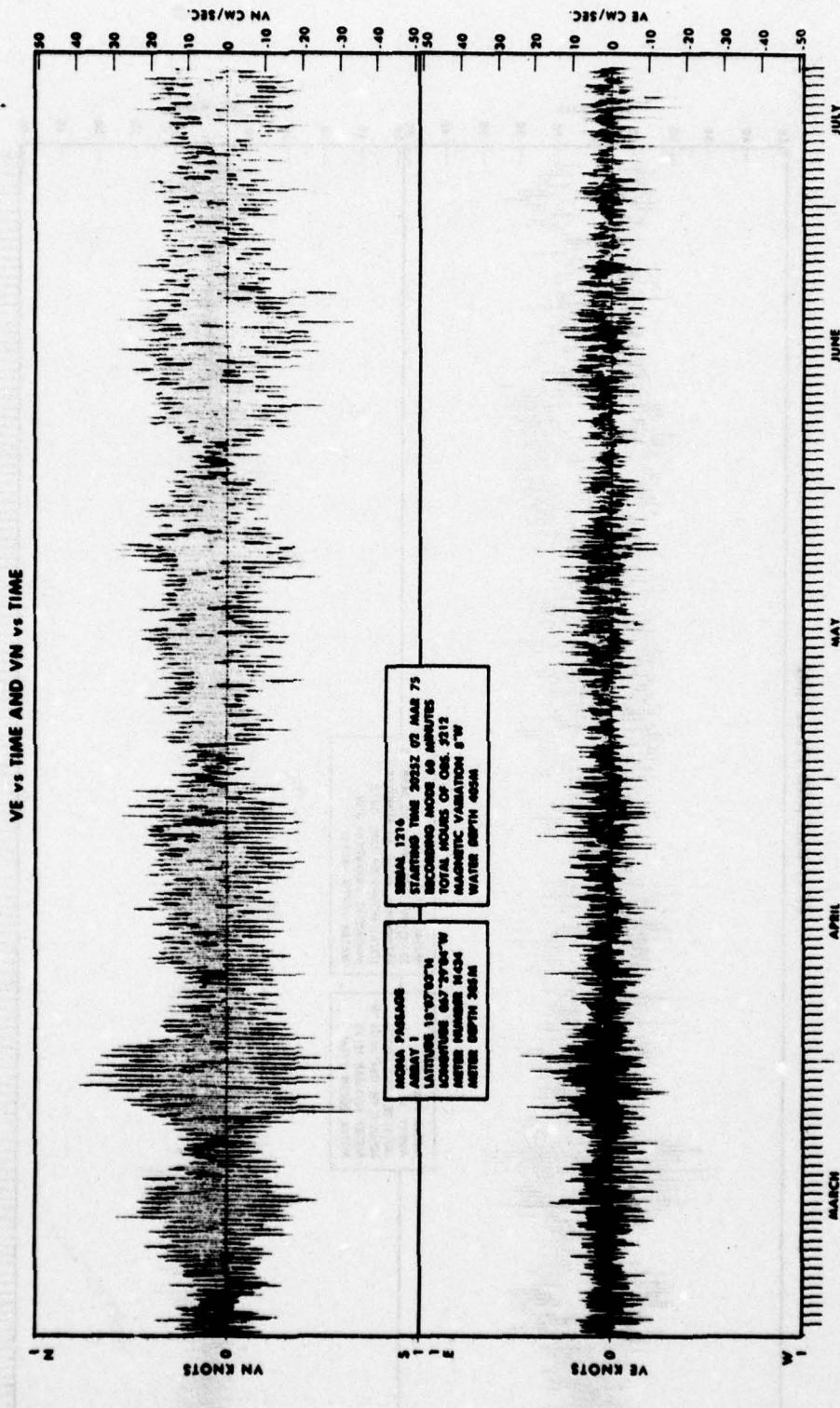
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 1

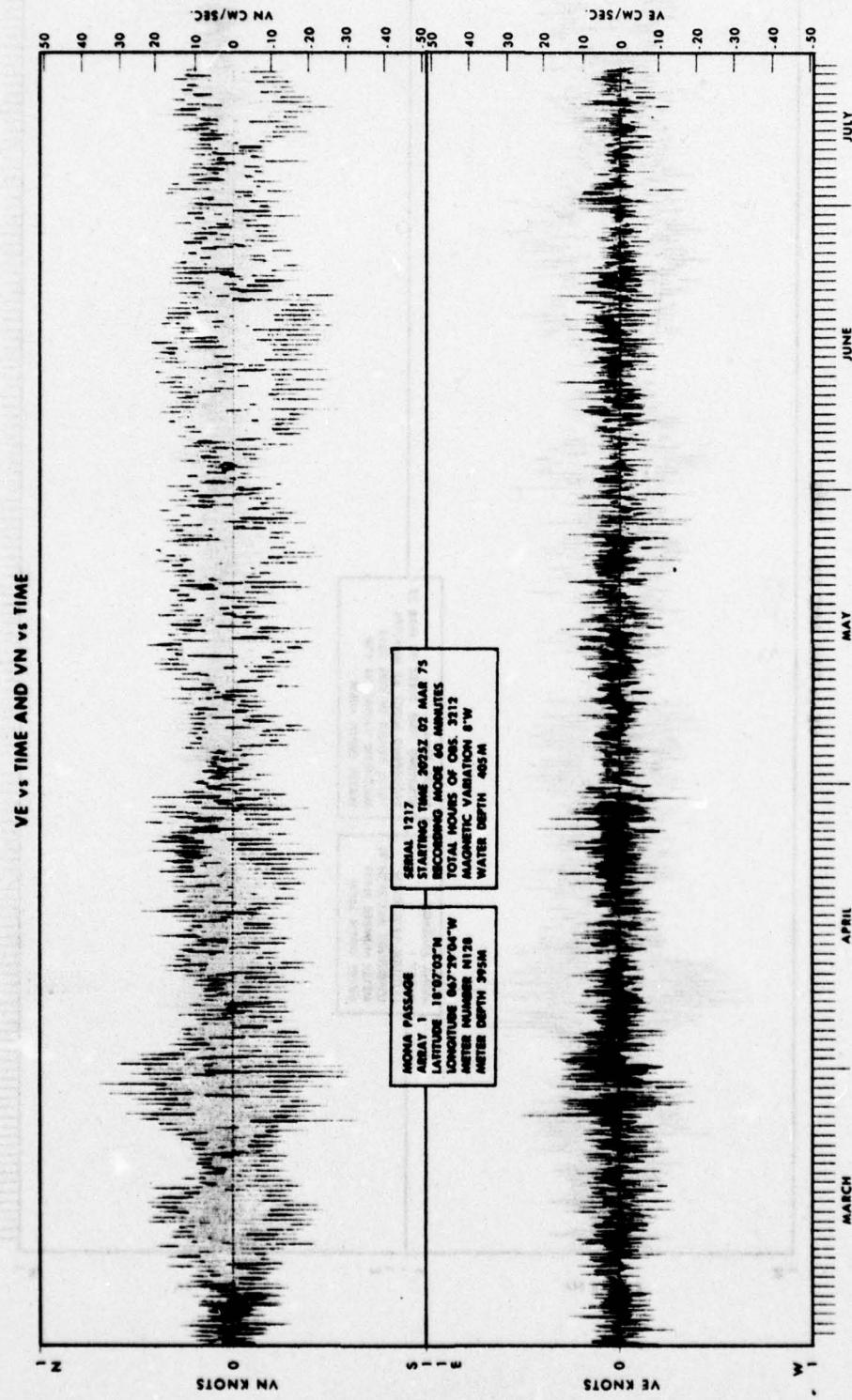


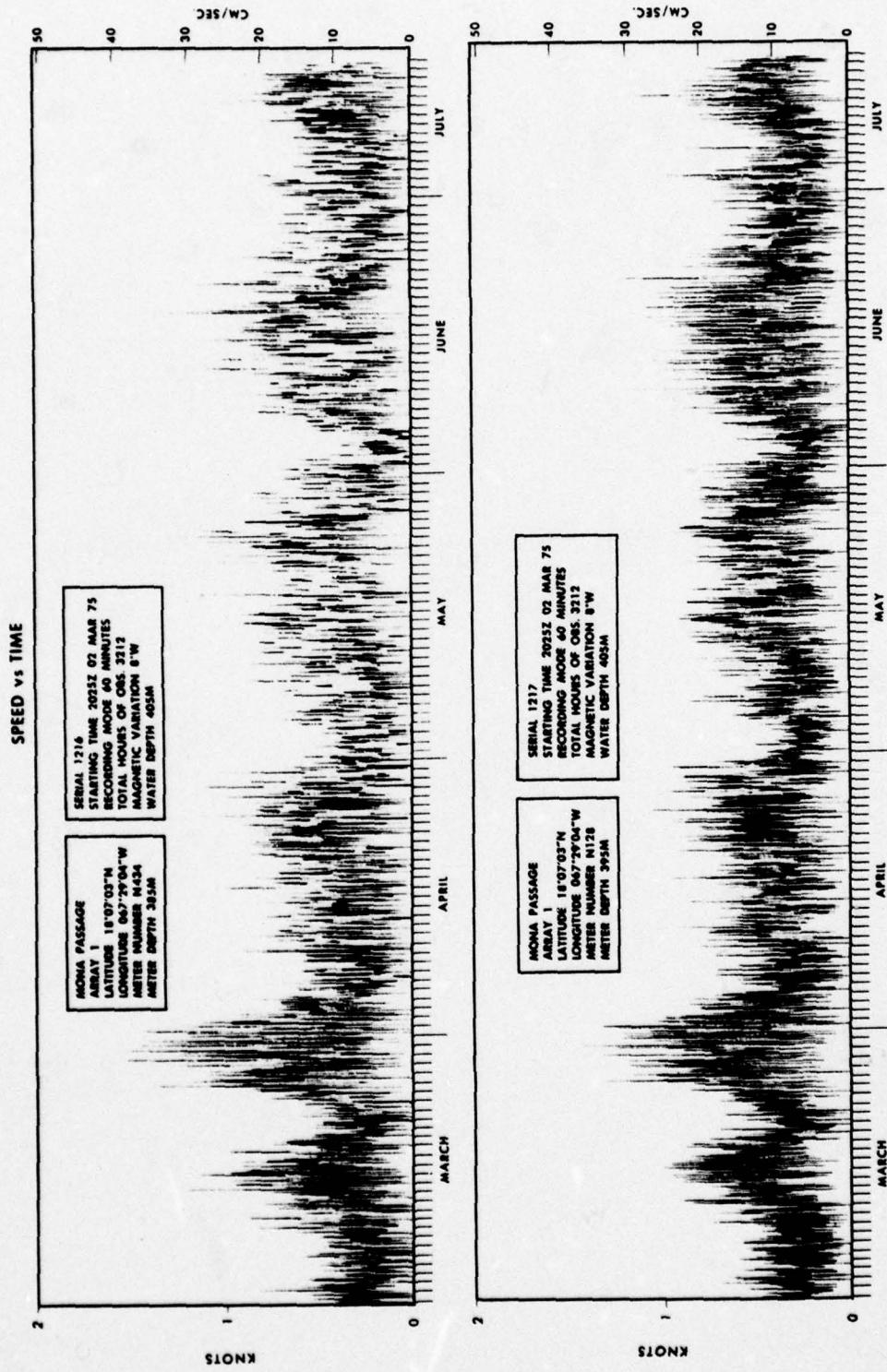
CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 1 TOP
METER N434
DEPTH 385 METERS



CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 1 LOW
METER N128
DEPTH 395 METERS







APPENDIX B

ARRAY 4

MONA PASS AGE
 18 10 03 N
 67 55 10 W
 AIR W 4
 CH N 4-29
 SERIAL 12 18
 METER DEPTH 321 M
 WATER DEPTH 341 M
 VARIATION 8 W
 CALCULATED FRAMES 3172
 FRAMES RECORDED 2316
 60 MINUTE OBSERVATIONS

METER ON 120552 02 MAR 1975
 PLANTED 11192 02 MAR
 FIRST FRAME IN FILE 19052 02 MAR
 RECOVERED 17552 12 JUL 1975

MEAN SPEED 19.52 CM/SEC
 MEAN DIRECTION 175.87 DEGREES TRUE
 MEDIAN SPEED 17.20 CM/SEC
 MAXIMUM SPEED 79.90 CM/SEC
 DIRECTION OF MAXIMUM 215.60 DEGREES TRUE
 STANDARD DEVIATION 12.94 CM/SEC

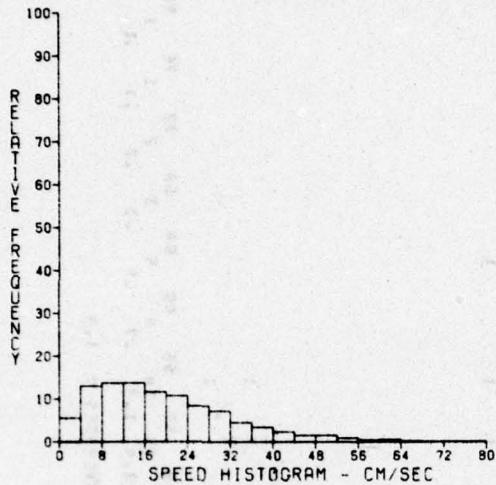
TIME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704
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NUMBER OF ZERO SPEED AVERAGES = 13
 TOTAL NUMBER OF OBS. = 2317
 PERCENTAGE ZERO SPEED AVERAGES = .f

HORA PASSAGE	METER DEPTH	331 M	METER ON	12052 02	MAR 1975
18 30 03 N	WATER DEPTH	341 M	PLANTED	13192 02	MAR
67 55 10 W	VARIATION	8 W	FIRST FRAME IN FILE	14052 02	MAR
AIR W	CALCULATED FRAMES	3172	RECOVERED	17552 12	JUL 1975
CHM H-43	FRAMES RECORDED	1098			
SERIAL 1239	60 MINUTE OBSERVATIONS				

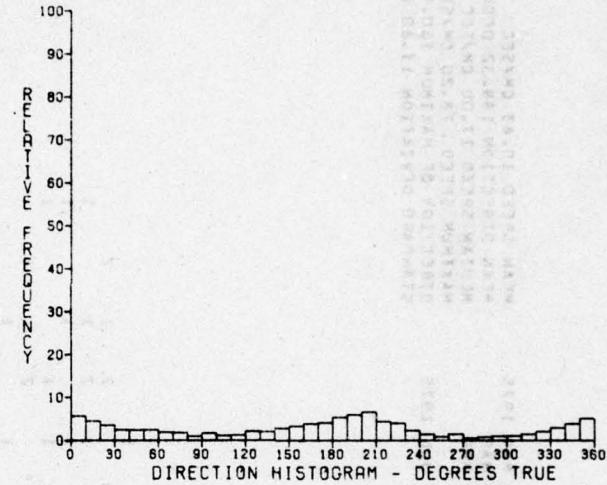
NUMBER OF ZERO SPEED AVERAGES = 20
 TOTAL NUMBER OF OBS. = 1097
 PERCENTAGE ZERO SPEED AVERAGES = 1.8

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 2317



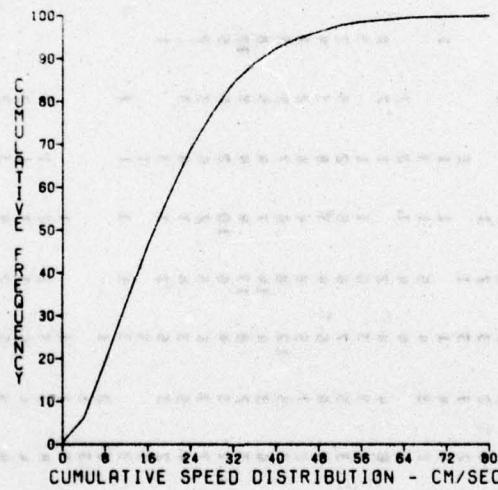
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 321 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 2304



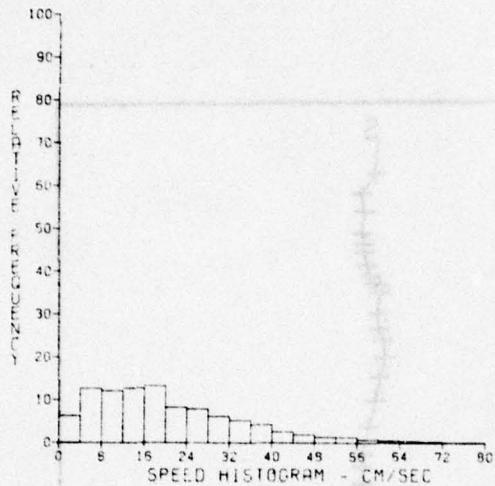
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 321 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 2317



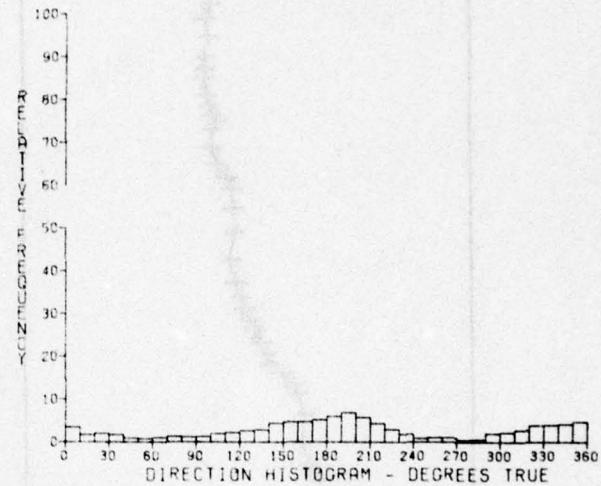
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 321 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 1097



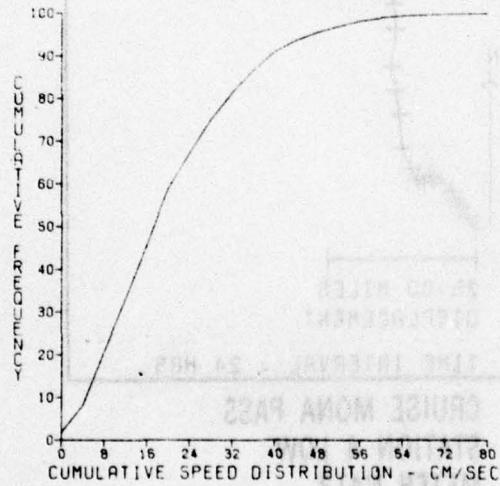
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 331 M

TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 1077

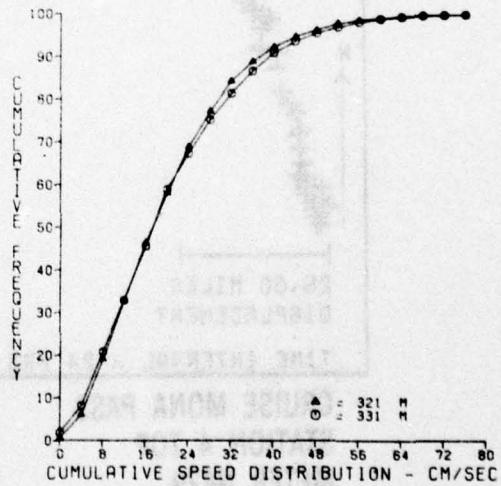


MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 331 M

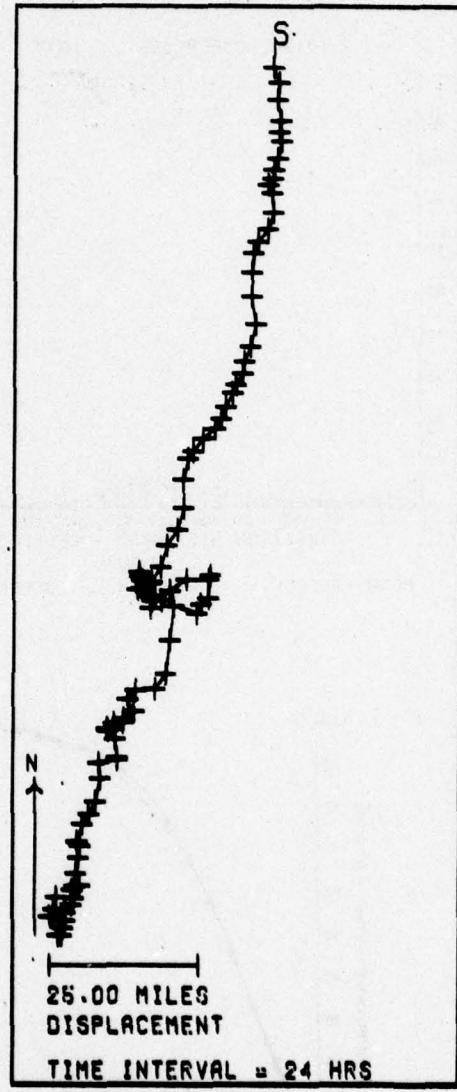
TOTAL NUMBER OBS. = 1097



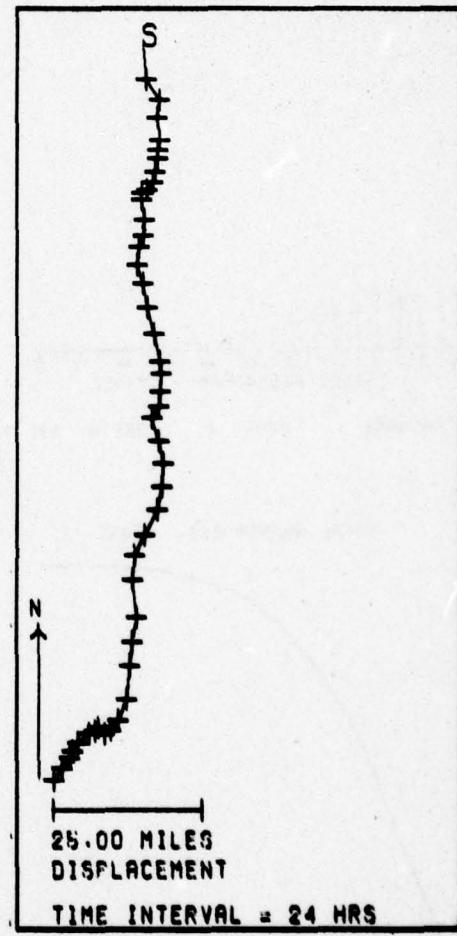
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4 DEPTH 331 M



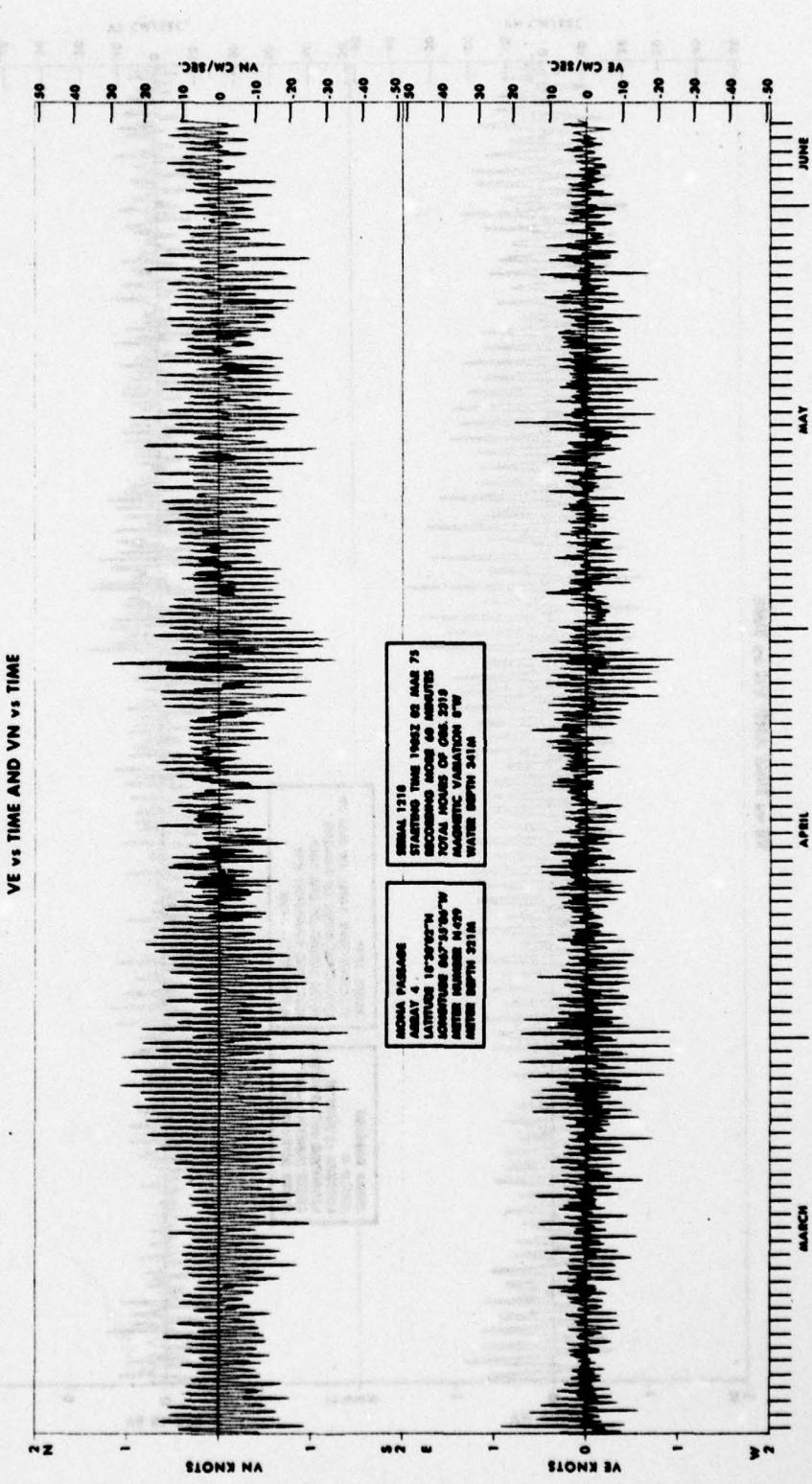
MONA PASSAGE ARRAY 4

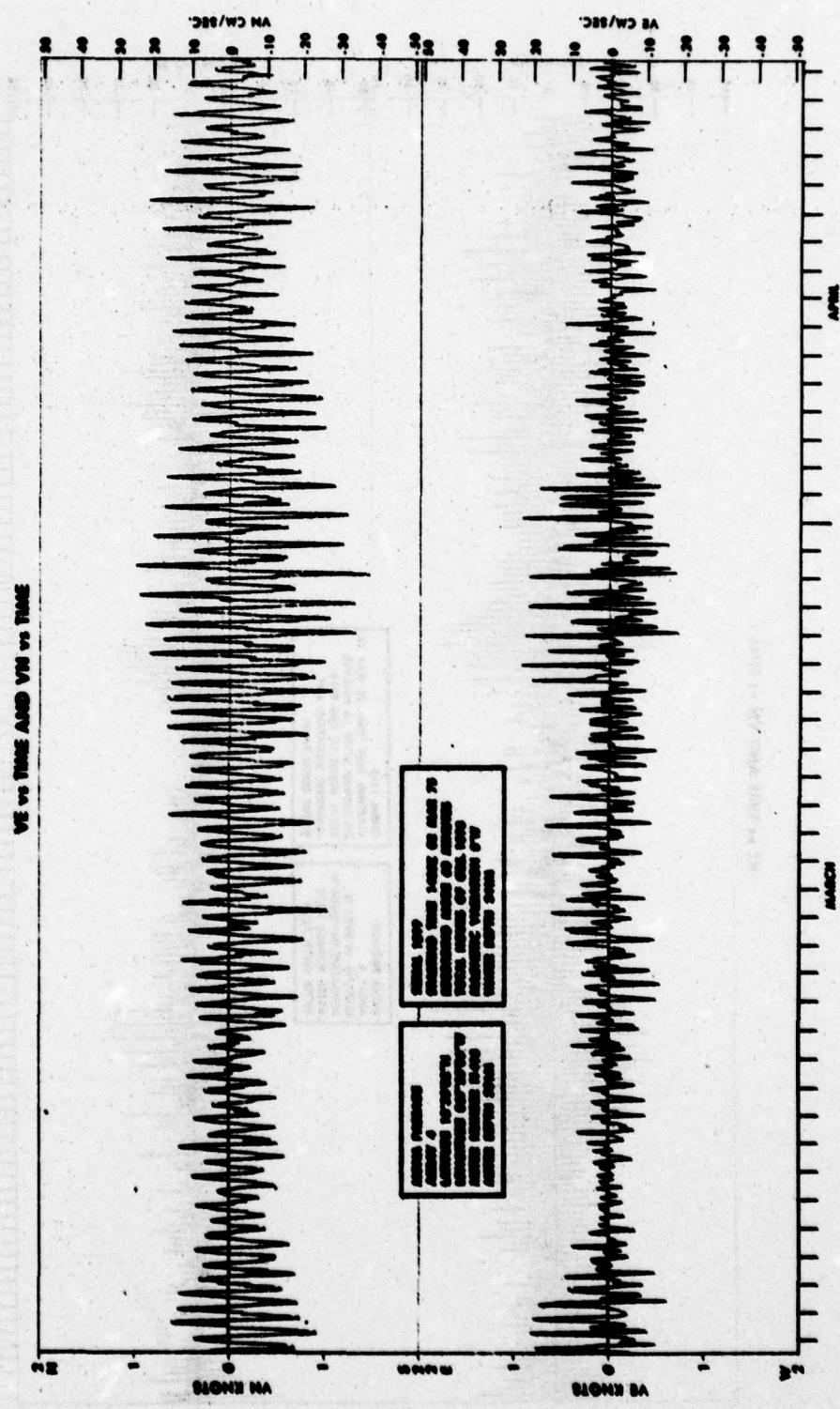


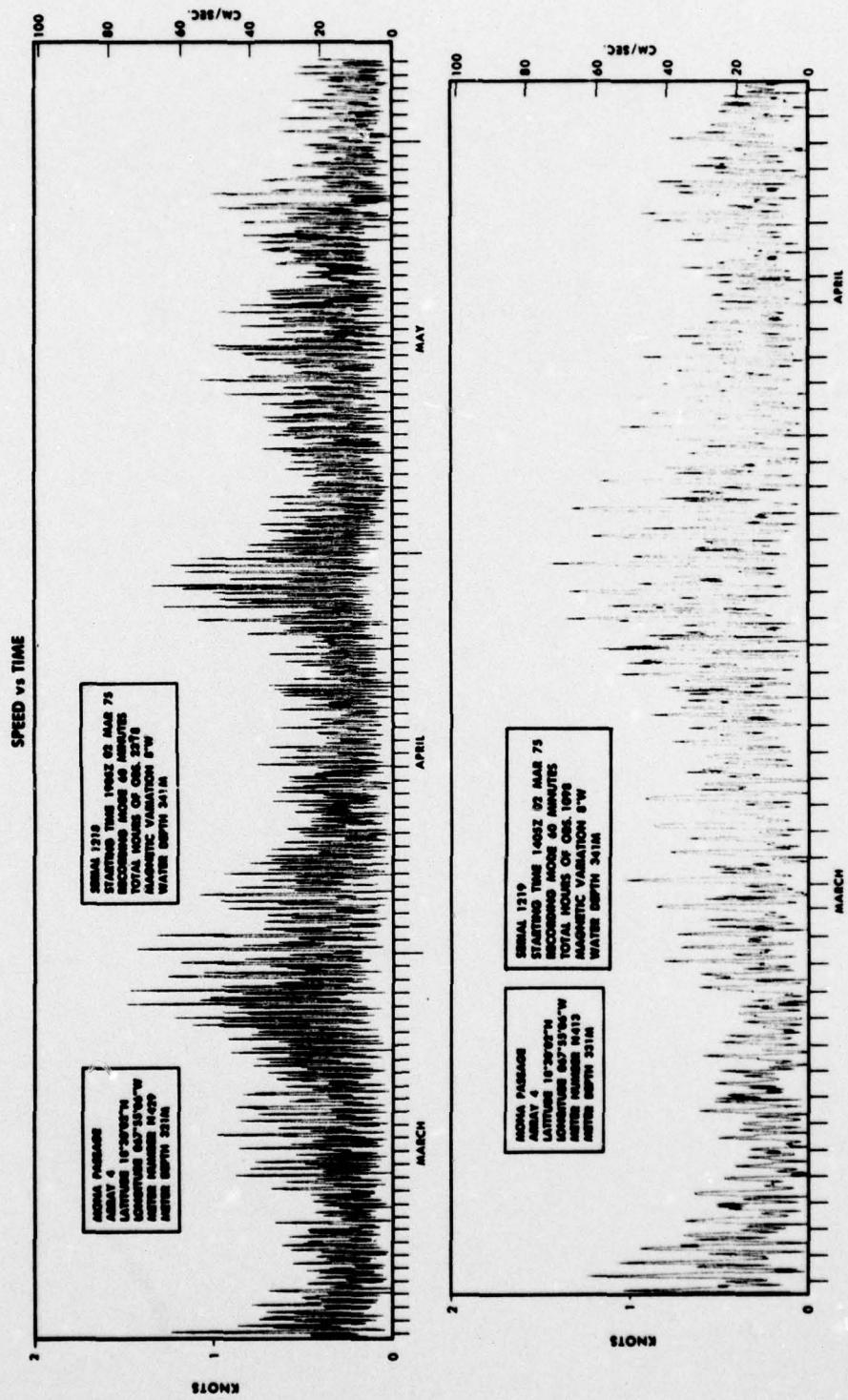
CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 4 TOP
METER N429
DEPTH 321 METERS



CRUISE MONA PASS
STATION 4 LOW
METER N413
DEPTH 331 METERS







APPENDIX C

SVSTD PROFILES

FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 005001.

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)

7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

△ SALINITY (P/PO)

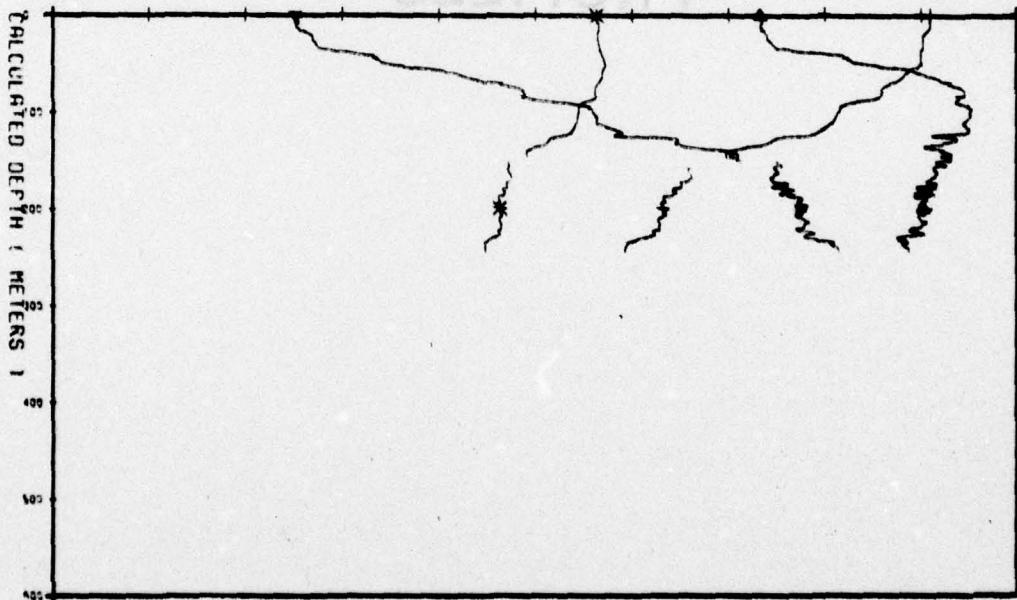
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY (M/SEC)

1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

▽ SIGMA-T

23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00



FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 001002

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)

7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +

△ SALINITY (P/000)

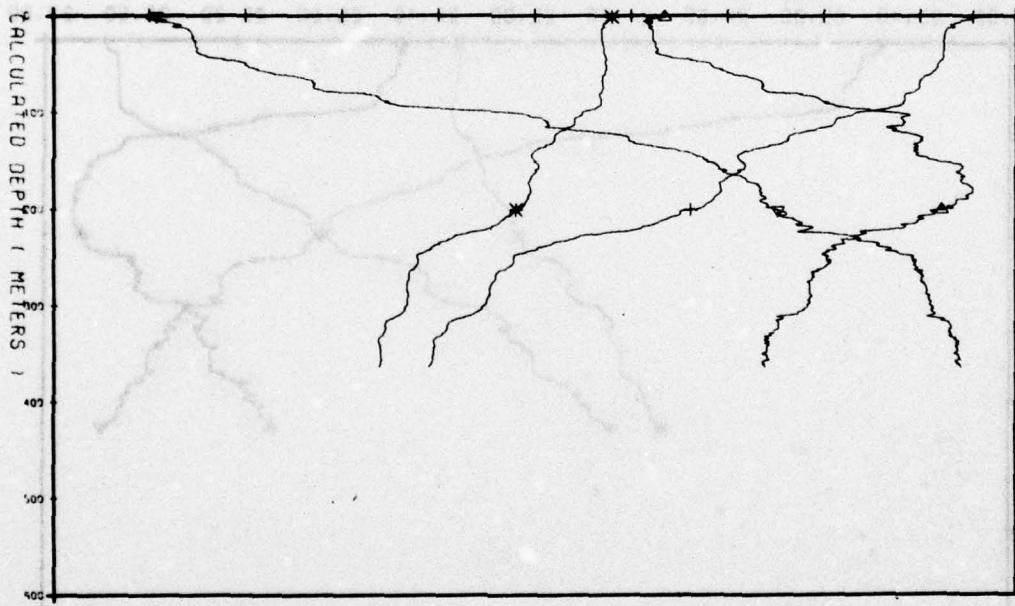
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +

* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY (M/SEC)

1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +	00 +

▽ SIGMA-T

23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00



FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 002003

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)

7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

△ SALINITY (P/PO)

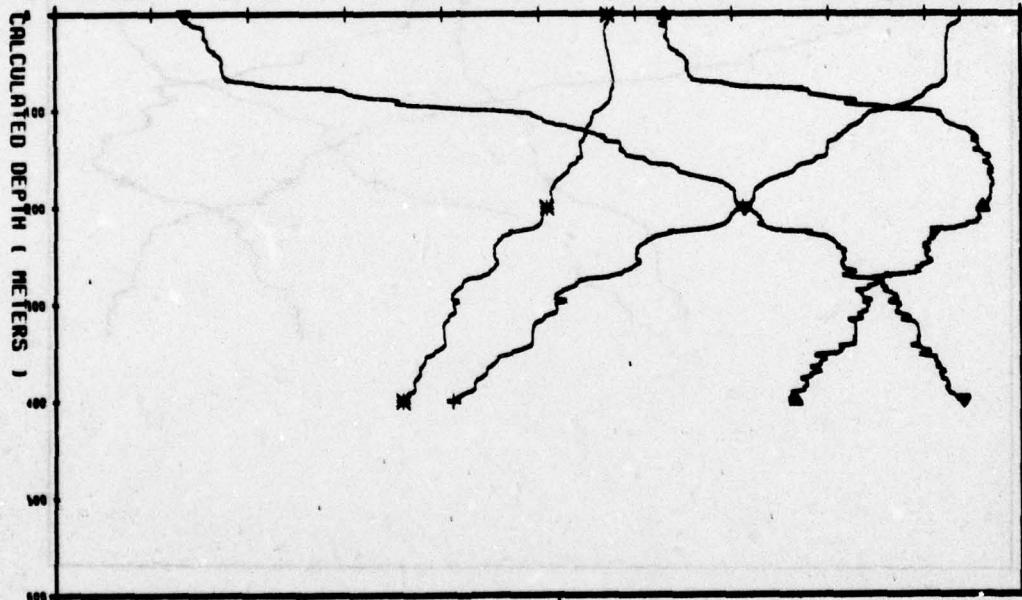
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY (M/SEC)

1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

▽ SIGMA-T

23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00



FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 003004

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)

7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

△ SALINITY (P/000)

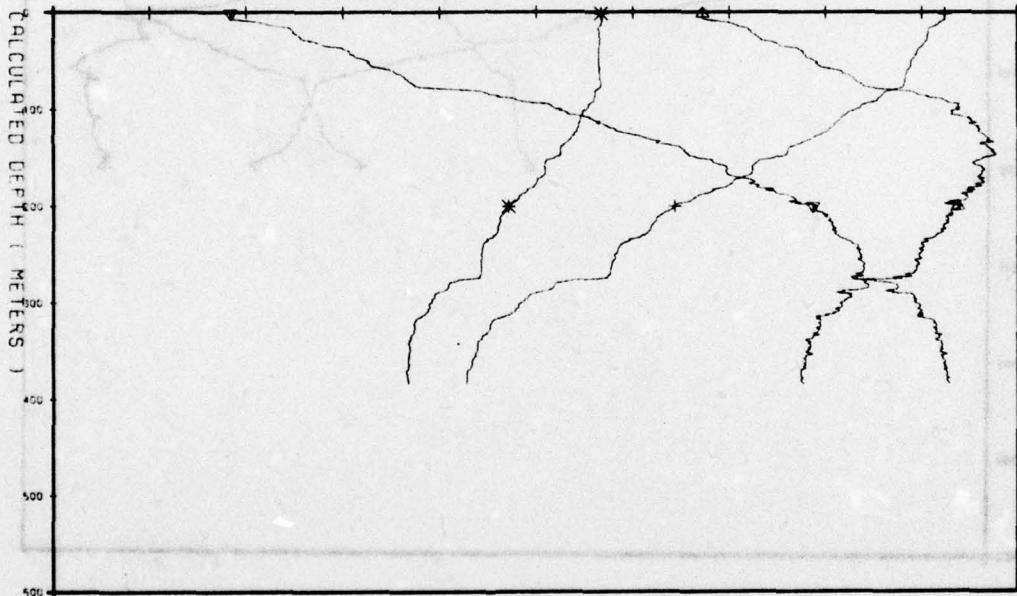
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY (M/SEC)

1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

▽ SIGMA-T

23.00	23.40	23.80	24.20	24.60	25.00	25.40	25.80	26.20	26.60	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+



FINAL PROFILE WILKES
NAVOCEANO CRUISE 343517
STATION 004005

+ TEMPERATURE (DEGREES C)

7.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00	25.00	27.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

△ SALINITY (P/POO)

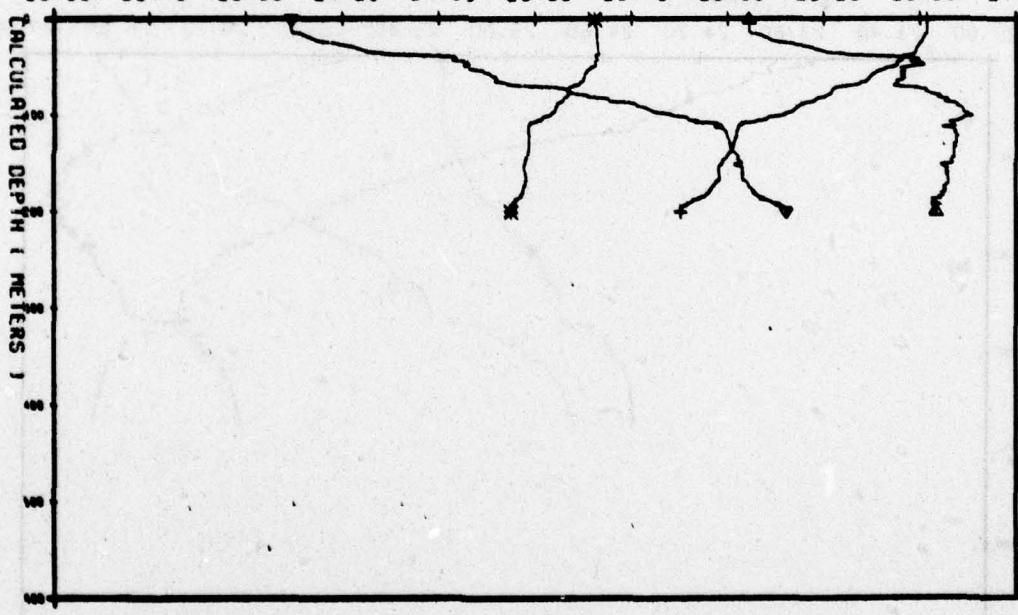
33.00	33.40	33.80	34.20	34.60	35.00	35.40	35.80	36.20	36.60	37.00
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

* CALCULATED S. VELOCITY (M/SEC)

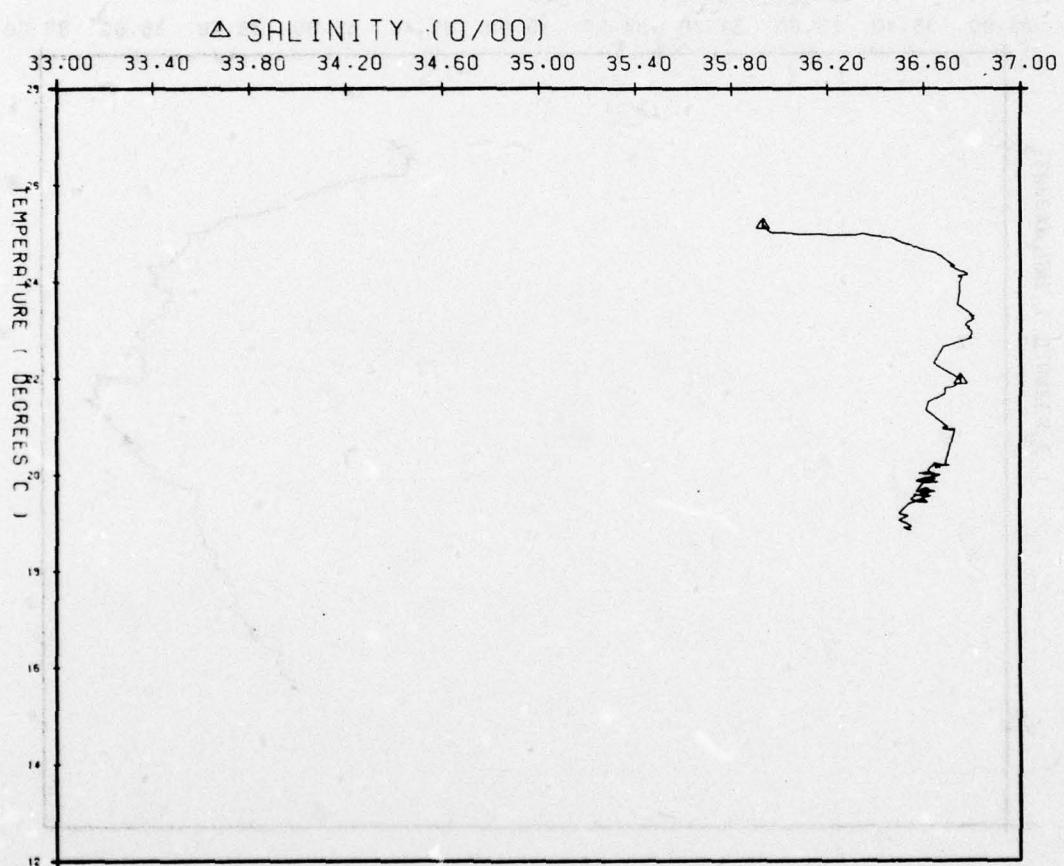
1480	1490	1500	1510	1520	1530	1540	1550	1560	1570	1580
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

▽ SIGMA-T

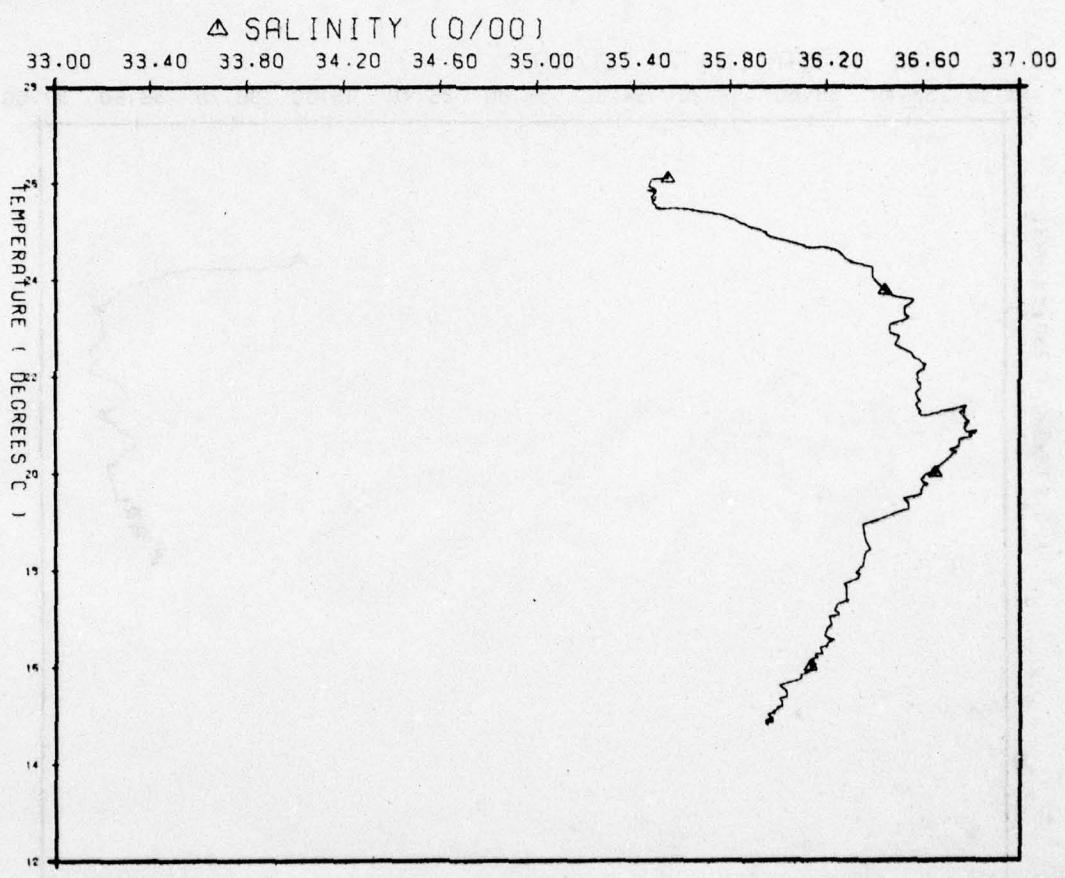
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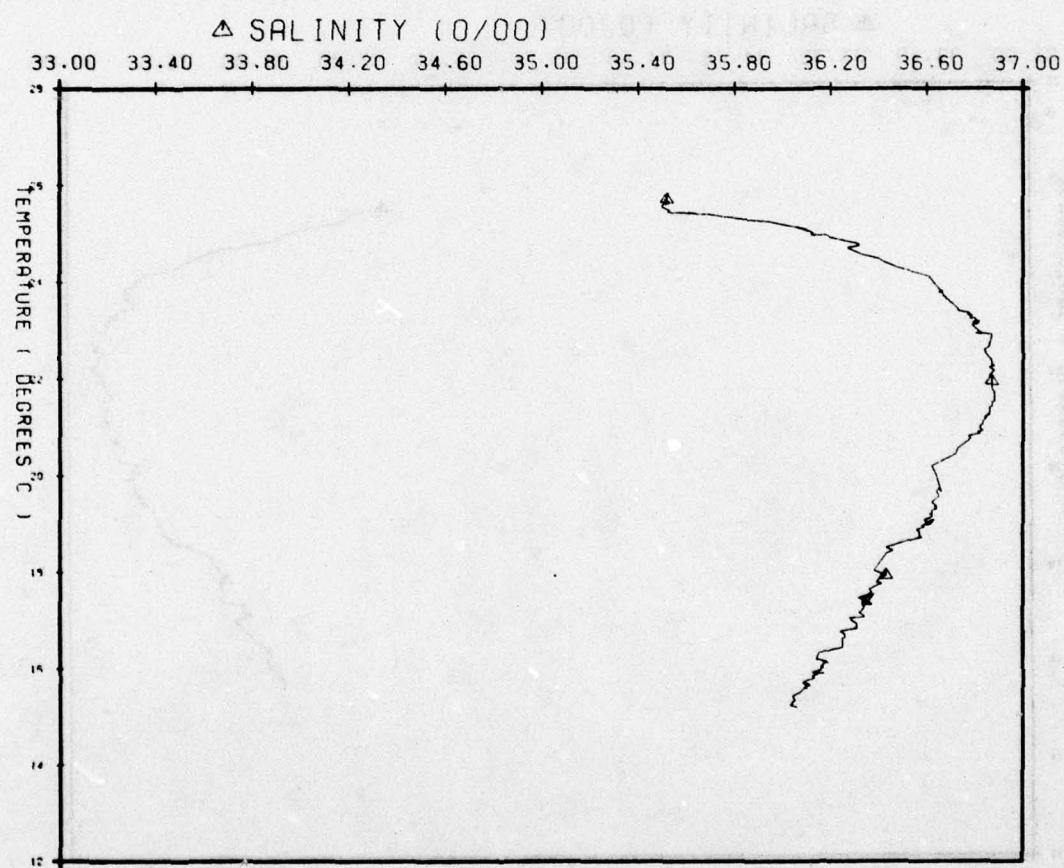
TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 005001.



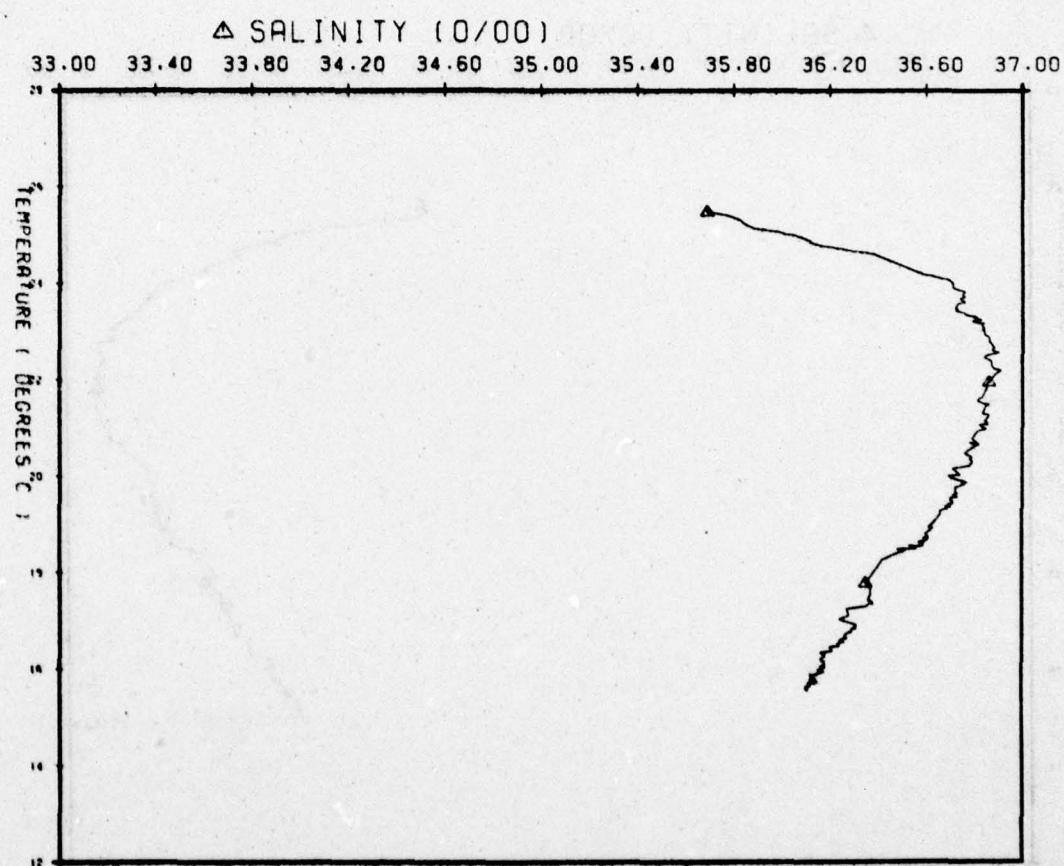
TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 001002



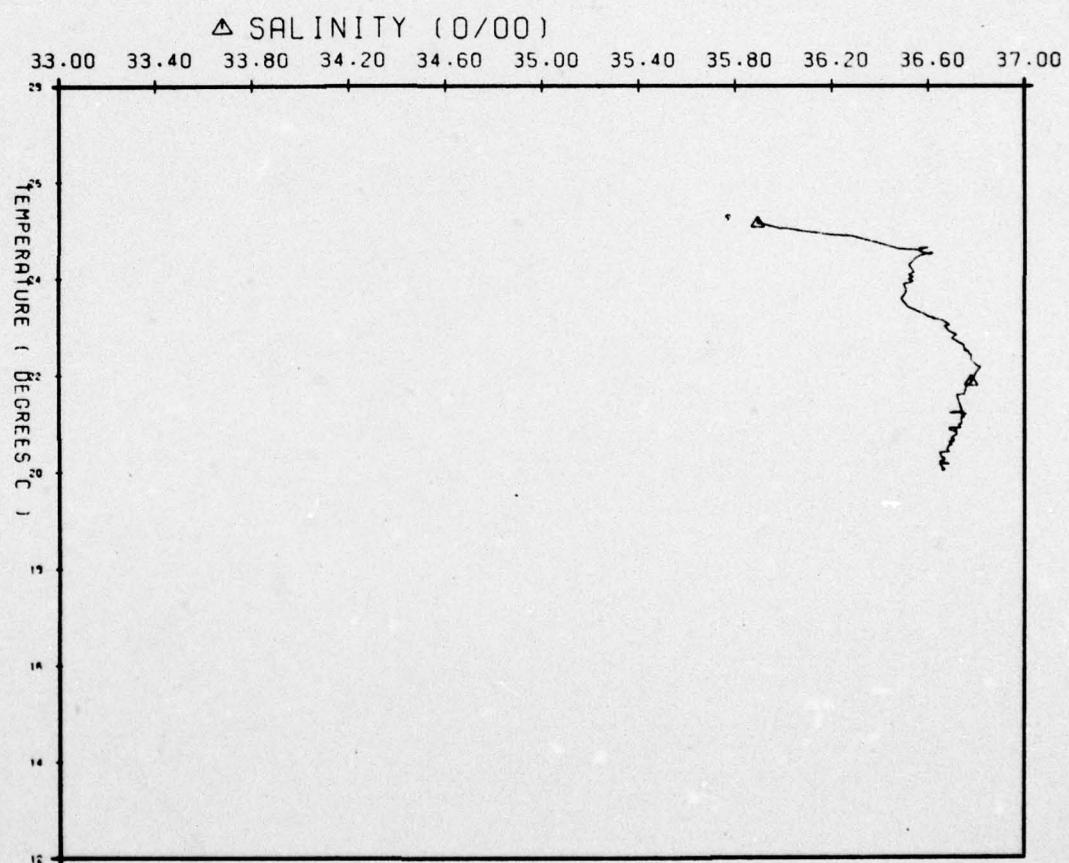
TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 002003



TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 003004



TEMPERATURE VS SALINITY
WILKES CR. 343517
STATION 004005



DISTRIBUTION LIST:

NAVOCEANO TECH. NOTE
NO. 3431-01-77

DATE: April 1977

SUBJECT: CURRENT METER DATA REPORT FOR MONA PASSAGE

REMARKS: